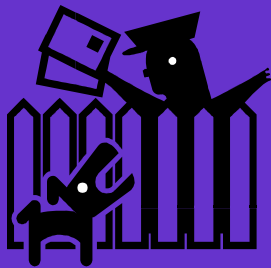


## If you should be bitten by an animal...

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible
- Wash all bites with soap and water immediately . Animal bites can become badly infected.
- Report any animal bite to the West Des Moines Police Animal

Control Unit: 222-3321



### When reporting an animal bite, please have the

#### following information:

- The time and date the bite occurred
- The address/location the bite occurred
- A description of the animal involved
- The name, address and phone number of the victim & any witnesses
- Any information on how the bite occurred.



### REMEMBER:

Animals can be great fun and make wonderful pets, but they should always be treated with caution and kindness!



## Animal Safety for Kids



## Children and Animal Bites

Dogs and cats can be great companions for kids, but it is important to teach children to be safe around animals. Bites and scratches can be caused by the family pet or by stray animals. The results of an attack can be serious and traumatic. These are some tips that can help you or your child avoid animal bites.

### Teach Kindness



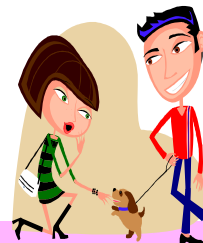
An animal that is in pain or is afraid is more likely to bite. Teach kids:

- Never to hurt or frighten an animal, this includes ear, lip or tail pulling & rough housing
- Leave an animal alone if it seems afraid
- Pet dogs and cats on the sides and back, not the face or head. Cats should never be rubbed on the belly.
- Animals, especially cats, should never be held against their will.



### Teach kids when to "Stay Away"

- Leave animals alone when they are eating, sleeping, chewing on a toy or taking care of puppies or kittens.
- Teach children to put food down and not touch it again if they are feeding a pet
- Children should never attempt to touch or move an injured animal, but should call an adult for help
- Never go into someone's yard to pet an animal without a member of that family present.
- Stay back from animals on chains or inside of vehicles or fenced yards.
- Never approach an animal running loose.
- Always avoid wild animals
- Never taunt or tease an animal
- Ask permission before approaching someone else's animal.



### Teach Kids to act like a tree or rock if they feel threatened by an animal

- "Stand like a tree" If standing, stay still and stare straight ahead, until the dog goes away
- "Curl up like a rock" If sitting or knocked down, curl up on one side with a fist over each ear. & protect your face. Be still as possible until the dog leaves
- Throw something as "bait" if the dog attacks, like a coat or a backpack.



**Make Animal Safety  
a Part of Life!**